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General Assembly
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Items 20 (c), 40, 41, 45, 50, 52, 65, 72, 74 (a), (i), (m), (p), (q) and 82 of the provisional agenda*
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The situation in the Middle East

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The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

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General and complete disarmament: notification of nuclear tests; towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda; reducing nuclear danger; regional disarmament; nuclear disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

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Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the G-8 statement on regional issues, which was adopted at the Kyushu-Okinawa Summit Meeting held in Okinawa, Japan, from 21 to 23 July 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under items 20 (c), 40, 41, 45, 50, 52, 65, 72, 74 (a), 74 (i), 74 (m), 74 (p), 74 (q) and 82 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kiyotaka **Akasaka**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

G-8 statement on regional issues

Okinawa, 21 July 2000

South Asia

The level of tension between India and Pakistan remains a cause of international concern. We call on the two countries to resume dialogue as soon as possible in the spirit of Lahore in order to realize a sustainable peace in the region.

We call on both India and Pakistan to join international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. While welcoming those positive statements and steps that have been made, we reiterate our call for them to carry out fully the concrete measures set out in Security Council resolution 1172 (1998) including signing and ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Middle East peace process

In the Middle East, there is a real opportunity for the achievement of a comprehensive peace based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the agreements made in Madrid and Oslo. We reaffirm our strong support for the efforts by the parties concerned to advance the peace process towards this end. We reiterate the importance we attach to a continuing commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

In the light of the trilateral summit meeting on a peace between Israel and the Palestinians, we applaud the intensive efforts by President Arafat and Prime Minister Barak, with the facilitation of President Clinton, to reach agreement on all permanent status issues. We welcome their courageous decision to continue negotiations, and confirm our support for their endeavours. We confirm too our commitment to assist the implementation of a peace agreement, and invite the international community to participate in the efforts to help the parties implement such an agreement when it is reached.

We underline the importance of resuming the activities of the multilateral working groups, recognizing that progress in the multilateral tracks is related to and supports the bilateral tracks.

We condemn any violent attempts by extremists and terrorists to interfere with the Middle East peace process, and call for a cessation of support for such violence.

We welcome the recent withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), as verified by the Secretary-General and confirmed by the Security Council. It is the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon to ensure the return of its effective authority to maintain peace and security in southern Lebanon. Being aware that attaining these goals will also depend on the Government's ability to meet the infrastructure and development needs of this region, we are committed to supporting its efforts to this end.

Balkans

The G-8 remains committed to supporting peace, stability, foreign and national investment, and development in South-East Europe. Towards this goal, we call upon all parties concerned in the region to refrain from violence and to promote further their mutual cooperation, and we reiterate the importance of promoting harmony among ethnic groups and creating the conditions for coexistence among all communities. We welcome contributions supporting South-East Europe made by States and international organizations, in particular by the European Union (EU), which plans a summit with the western Balkan countries. We commend the coordination provided by the Stability Pact, which is contributing to enhanced regional political and economic cooperation in South-East Europe. We also welcome the 2.4 billion euros in pledges for quick-start projects in the fields of democratization, economic development and security under the Stability Pact. We will meet our financial commitments, and urge countries in the region to intensify their efforts for reform. We give our strong support to the projects being implemented by the World Bank, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development within the framework of the Stability Pact.

We reaffirm our commitment to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and underline our support for the efforts made by the United Nations, the EU, KFOR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Successful and carefully prepared municipal elections in Kosovo will be an important step in the establishment of a democratic and multiethnic society, and we urge all communities in Kosovo to refrain from violence and to help build such a society.

We look forward to a democratic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia so that it can be reintegrated in the international community and play its rightful part in contributing to the stability of the entire region. We are very concerned by the motivation for and the possible consequences of the revision of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Constitution. We call on the Government in Belgrade to refrain from any action which could contribute to the further escalation of violence. We also call on the opposition to contribute to the peaceful democratic development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We strongly oppose the recent restrictions on the free press in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We welcome the continued consolidation of democracy in Montenegro, reiterate our support for its democratically elected authorities and urge them to continue to practice restraint.

Africa

We are deeply concerned about the growth of armed conflict in the continent of Africa. Africa must mobilize the political will to prevent and resolve armed conflicts. We stress that the rule of law, good governance and democracy are indispensable elements to achieve that goal. We reaffirm our strong commitment to help. We also reaffirm our commitment to support Africa's quest for peace and stability.

Cyprus

We recall the declaration issued at our last meeting in Cologne calling for a resumption of comprehensive negotiations under United Nations auspices on a

Cyprus settlement. We commend the Secretary-General for convening proximity talks between the parties to the Cyprus dispute to prepare the ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement. The failure of the two parties to resolve their differences and end the division of Cyprus remains a matter of serious concern to us. We call upon the parties to take the historic opportunity that now exists to intensify the negotiations in an effort to strike the compromises needed to reach a just and lasting settlement that protects the fundamental interests of both parties in an undivided Cyprus, giving full consideration to relevant Security Council resolutions. We express the hope that decisive progress will be made in the current round and in the months ahead.